

**REMARKS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-5 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 are amended. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houf et al. (U.S. 4,769,557) in view of Grant (U.S. 6,441,520). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a one system module including a case having a shape that is substantially parallelepiped, the case constituting a body of the one system module; a plurality of power pins disposed adjacently to two adjoining edges on a surface of the case and a plurality of signal pins disposed adjacently to a third edge on the surface of the case, the power pins and the signal pins being arranged in a manner such that substantially a U-shaped arrangement is obtained along the three edges.

In addition, independent claim 4 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a system module for an electric appliance, including a plurality of power pins and signal pins disposed adjacently to three edges of the case and extending through a surface of the case such that the power pins and signal pins are in a substantially U-shape along the three edges, the signal

pins being disposed adjacently to one of the three edges which is opposite to another of the three edges with power pins disposed adjacently thereto.

Full support for the novel combination of elements set forth in claims 1 and 4 can be seen in FIG. 5, which clearly show a plurality of power pins 502 disposed adjacently to two adjoining edges on a surface of the case 501, as set forth in claim 1; and the signal pins 503 being disposed adjacently to one of the three edges which is opposite to another of the three edges with power pins 502 disposed adjacently thereto, as set forth in claim 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 4 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Houf et al. and Grant.

In contrast to the present invention, the Houf et al. document (FIG. 3a) merely shows power pins 36, 38 disposed adjacently to opposite edges of the case. Neither of the Houf et al. nor the Grant document discloses or suggests power pins being disposed adjacently to two edges adjoining each other; likewise neither discloses or suggests signal pins being disposed adjacently an edge opposite to one of the edges having power pins disposed adjacently thereto.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 4 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Houf et al. and Grant, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Therefore, claims 1 and 4 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

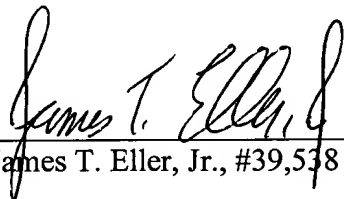
Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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